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Message Text

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67
ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 CCO-00 USSS-00 FBIE-00 SY-04

DRC-01 NIC-01 SCCT-02 /089 W
---------- 107456
O 021705Z OCT 74
FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 1642

UNCLAS SANTO DOMINGO 4060

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ASEC
SUBJECT: HUTCHISON KIDNAPPING: LOCAL RADIO COVERAGE

REPORT OF LOCAL RADIO COVERAGE FROM 3:00 P.M. TUESDAY OCTOBER 1,
UNTIL 2:30 P.M., WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 2.

1. LOCAL COVERAGE DURING AFTERNOON CONSISTED OF REGULAR PROGRAMMING
WITH HOURLY NEWS SUMMARIES. MEETING BETWEEN PRESIDENT BALAGUER AND
HEADS OF MILITARY FORCES WAS REPORTED AND IT WAS "SPECULATED" THEY
HAD MET TO DISCUSS KIDNAPPING SITUATION.

2. EVENING COVERAGE BEGAN AT THE TIME OF EXPECTED ARRIVAL OF MONSIGN
OR
POLANCO BRITO, WHO HAD BEEN ALLOWED TO DELIVER FOOD, MEDICINE, AND
WATER TO PEOPLE INSIDE CONSULATE. THERE WERE REPORTS THAT AMBASSADOR
HURWITCH HAD ARRIVED AT THE SCENE ALONE. NEITHER SPANISH AMBASSADOR,
VENEZUELAN CHARGE, MONSIGNOR POLANCO BRITO, NOR DR. PITTALUGA HAD
ARRIVED, AND IT WAS REPORTED EVERYONE WAS WAITING FOR THEIR ARRIVAL.
REGULAR PROGRAMMING CONTINUED, AND NEWS SUMMARIES REPORTED KILLING OF
SUSPECTED DRUG TRAFFICKER, ROBBERY ATTEMPT AT BANCO DE RESERVAS,
FRUSTRATED BY SECRET POLICE, AND THE CHARGING OF LA NOTICIA
NEWSPAPERMEN, MENDEZ VARGAS' WIFE, AND 3 OTHERS WITH "GUILD BY
ASSOCIATION" AND COMPLICITY IN KIDNAPPING. IT WAS REPORTED THAT
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IN CARACAS DOMINICAN AMBASSADOR TO VENEZUELA SAID THE DOMINICAN

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GOVERNMENT OFFERED KIDNAPPERS SAFE PASSAGE OUT OF COUNTRY IN EXCHANGE FOR RELEASE OF PRISONERS, BUT THAT DOMINICAN GOVERNMENT WAS NOT GOING TO MEET ANY OF THEIR DEMANDS.

3. NON-ARRIVAL OF MONSIGNOR POLANCO BRITO CONTINUED TO BE REPORTED. BECAUSE THERE HAD BEEN NO OFFICIAL WORD, JOURNALISTS WERE FORCED TO SPECULATE OVER WHAT COURSE WAS BEING TAKEN TO SEEK A SOLUTION TO PROBLEM. ONE SPECULATION WAS THAT MENDEZ VARGAS WAS PUBLICLY SAYING HE HAD NOT DECREASED HIS DEMANDS WHILE PRIVATELY ATTEMPTING TO NEGOTIATE FOR THE RELEASE OF MATOS MOQUETE AND SAFE PASSAGE FOR KIDNAPPERS.

4. VENEZUELAN SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS WAS REPORTED TO HAVE SAID DOMINICAN GOVERNMENT SHOULD MAINTAIN ITS FIRM STAND AGAINST DEMANDS OF KIDNAPPERS.

5. LATE NIGHT REPORTS OF SITUATION AT CONSULATE SKETCHED WORD PROTRAITS OF WHAT WAS HAPPENING. IT WAS RAINING AND REPORTERS WERE TRYING TO FIND SOME SHELTER FROM RAIN. THE POLICE WERE PRESENT BUT WERE NOT PAYING ATTENTION. THEIR VIGIL HAD BECOME ROUTINE. SITUATION WAS CALM, AS IT HAD BEEN EVERY NIGHT SINCE GUERRILLAS TOOK OVER CONSULATE. AT THAT HOUR OF THE NIGHT MOST PEOPLE IN CITY WERE SLEEPING.

6. EARLY MORNING REPORTS SUMMARIZED EVENTS OF PRECEDING DAY. OUTCOME OF KIDNAPPING OF LT. COL. CROWLEY WAS REPEATED, POINTING OUT ONLY FOUR OF THOSE INVOLVED IN THAT KIDNAPPING ARE STILL ALIVE, OTHERS HAVING BEEN KILLED, USUALLY AT THE HANDS OF POLICE.

7. RADIO CLARIN REPEATED EDITORIAL FROM MORNING NEWSPAPER EL CARIBE, POINTING OUT THAT IT WAS TIME GUERILLAS RELIZED KIDNAPPING WAS A USELESS ACTION WHICH WOULD NOT BE SUCCESSFUL (UNA ACCION INNECESARIA Y ESTERIL). EDITORIAL SAID IT WOULD BE IN KIDNAPPERS' BEST INTEREST TO RELEASE HOSTAGES AND TURN THEMSELVES INTO THE AUTHORITIES. EDITORIAL STATED TERRORISTS WOULD HAVE TO ANSWER SOCIETY FOR THEIR CRIME, BUT IF THEY DID WHAT THE EDITORIAL PROPOSED, THE CRIME THEY WOULD HAVE TO ANSWER TO WOULD BE LESS SERIOUS IF THERE WERE NO BLOODLETTING. FURTHERMORE, A PUBLIC TRIAL IS LEAST TERRIBLE OUTCOME OF INCIDENT. KIDNAPPERS SHOULD REALIZE THEIR ACTION HAS NOT BROUGHT THEIR
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MOVEMENT ANY SYMPATHIZERS. ON THE CONTRARY, ACTION IS CONSIDERED REPUGNANT BY EVERYONE. FINALLY, EDITORIAL STATED TERRORISTS SHOULD CONSIDER SITUATION, REALIZING THAT IF ANYTHING HAPPENS TO ANY OF THE HOSTAGES, THE GUERRILLAS ACTION WOULD BE IRREMEDIABLY HEINOUS.

8. MORNING REPORTS CONTINUED WITH SUMMARIES OF PAST EVENTS AND EDITORIALS DENOUNCING KIDNAPPING. THERE WERE ALSO EDITORIALS DENOUNCING THE JAILING OF REPORTERS, CALLING THE ACT A VIOLATION

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OF HUMAN AND CIVIL RIGHTS.

9. TWENTY-FOUR HOURS HAD PASSED SINCE MONSIGNOR POLANCO BRITO HAD BROUGHT ITEMS, AND ON-THE-SCENE REPORTERS COMMENTED ON THIS. THIS MORNING THE VENEZUELAN CHARGE WAS PRESENT. HE REPORTEDLY WAITED A FEW MINUTES, TALKED WITH POLICE OFFICIALS, AND THEN LEFT AREA.

10. MONSIGNOR POLANCO BRITO WAS REPORTED TO HAVE BEEN WORKING AT THE CHURCH TODAY. WHEN ASKED WHY HE HAD DISCONTINUED DELIVERIES TO CONSULATE HE SAID HE HAD NOTHING TO STATE ON THAT MATTER. FURTHER, HE HAD SEVERAL IMPORTANT CHURCH MATTERS TO CATCH UP ON AND HE WAS SPENDING DAY DOING THAT.

11. A FLURRY OF ACTIVITY WAS REPORTED WHEN A BLACK DOG RAN FROM INSIDE CONSULATE. POLICE POINTED WEAPONS AT CONSULATE AND CAMERAS, TAPE RECORDERS, AND TV CAMERAS BEGAN OPERATING. IT WAS STATED THAT THE DOG APPARENTLY BELONGED TO ONE OF THE VENEZUELAN DIPLOMATS HELD CAPTIVE AND QUITE POSSIBLY THE DOG HAD BEEN INSIDE CONSULATE FOR PAST FIVE DAYS ALONG WITH HOSTAGES. AFTER THE ACTIVITY, RADIO CLARIN BROADCAST BRIEF CONVERSATION WITH WIFE OF VENEZUELAN VICE-CONSUL IN WHICH SHE SAID SHE THOUGHT SHE HAD HEARD THE DOG SCREAM.

12. IT WAS REPORTED THAT AN UNIDENTIFIED MAN'S VOICE HAD CALLED OUT FROM INSIDE CONSULATE ASKING THAT EITHER AMERICAN AMBASSADOR OR VENEZUELAN CHARGE GET IN TOUCH WITH KIDNAPPERS BY TELEPHONE.

13. WHEN THERE WERE NO DEVELOPMENTS AROUND CONSULATE, BROADCASTS CONSISTED OF COMMENTARY OVER THE CHARGING OF LA NOTICIA NEWSPAPER-MEN. THE LAWYER FOR THE NEWSMEN SPOKE, SAYING THERE WAS NO PROOF OF COMPLICITY. THEN THERE WAS RIGHTEOUSLY INDIGNANT COMMENT ON HOW INCARCERATION OF JOURNALISTS WOULD AFFECT CONDUCT
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OF ALL JOURNALISTS AND NEWSPERSONS IN DR.

14. NOON NEWS REPORTS CONTINUED TO SUMMARIZE EVENTS OF MORNING. IT WAS REPORTED THAT PRESIDENT BALAGUER HAD MET WITH AMBASSADOR HURWITCH AND VENEZUELAN CHARGE. EL CARIBE EDITORIAL WAS REPEATED. THERE WAS AN UNOFFICIAL STATEMENT THAT "OPERATION SANDWICH" HAD BEEN SUSPENDED.

15. DR. PITTALUGA ARRIVED AND READ STATEMENT FROM HIMSELF AND MONSIGNOR POLANCO BRITO. TEXT OF MESSAGE ASKED KIDNAPPERS TO CONSIDER APPEAL OF DR. PITTALUGA AND MONSIGNOR POLANCO BRITO NOT TO HARM ANY OF THE HOSTAGES, BECAUSE IF ANY WERE HARMED, ALL DOORS TO AN ARRANGEMENT WILL BE CLOSED. MOREOVER, DR. PITTALUGA AND MONSIGNOR POLANCO BRITO, TOGETHER WITH HEADS OF DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS AFFECTED, WERE SEARCHING FOR A POSSIBLE SOLUTION.

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16. AN APPEAL TO PRESIDENT BALAGUER FROM WIFE OF VENEZUELAN VICE-CONSUL WAS BROADCAST. SHE APPEALED TO HIS SOCIAL CONSCIENCE AND SAID THE NEGOTIATING TO FREE HOSTAGES WOULD BE A SIGN OF COURAGE. SHE WAS NOT APPEALING AS THE WIFE OF ONE OF THE HOSTAGES, BUT RATHER AS A CITIZEN OF THE DR.

17. ON THE 2:30 NEWS SUMMARY IT WAS REPORTED THAT NEGOTIATIONS HAD APPARENTLY BEEN INTERRUPTED. IT WAS SAID THAT UNOFFICIALLY PRESIDENT BALAGUER WAS NOW PREPARED TO TAKE A HARD LINE STANCE IN VIEW OF MENDEZ VARGAS' STATEMENT THAT HE HAD NOT DIMINISTED HIS DEMANDS.
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Executive Order: N/A
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